

Application No.: 10/655,806

Docket No.: JCLA11376

**REMARKS****Present Status of the Application**

The Office Action rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over Lamphere et al. (U.S. 6,155,910). The Office Action rejected claims 4-6 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Redeker (U.S. 6,602,724) in view of Lamphere et al. (U.S. 6,155,910). The Office Action further indicated that claim 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants appreciate this indication of allowable subject matter. Applicants have amended claims 4 by adding allowable claimed features, **"the second polishing operation is conducted at a rate faster than that of the first polishing operation"**, into claim 4. Furthermore, Applicants have deleted claims 1-3. Therefore, claims 4-6 and 12 possess allowable claimed feature and withdrawing the rejections to claims 4-6 and 12 is respectfully requested.

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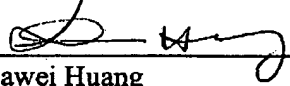
**CONCLUSION**

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the pending claims 4-6 and 12 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,  
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